

**Question for written answer E-006901/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Road hauliers

Measures recently introduced in some EU countries ban drivers from taking their regular weekly rest period in the cabin of a vehicle. Failure to comply with this rule is classed as an offence that is punishable with a fine or even imprisonment. These measures are highly restrictive, they do not match the offence committed, and they are totally disproportionate and discriminatory, since they do not apply to resident hauliers who take their weekly rest period at home rather than in the cabin of their vehicle. Moreover, it is not just road transport firms and drivers that are affected by these penalties but also the billions of euros worth of goods that are transported by the sector every day.

There is a risk that the current situation may lead to escalating competition between Member States where drivers face heavy fines or indeed imprisonment for offences that are laid down at national level but not in European legislation, particularly where the national rules are applied only to foreigners and not to residents. Against this backdrop, what steps is the Commission considering to ensure that the interests and rights of road transport operators are actively represented in the same way across the EU and that no abusive penalties are imposed on the territory of some individual Member States?